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551927

FROM: Stockholm 708, January 5, 1951 Enclosure No. 1

RE: **RETAIN ON DESTROY**

SUBJECT: Memorandum Entitled "NATIONAL RESISTANCE AND PURGES
IN SOVIET LATVIA" - Prepared By Mr. Bruno KALNINS -
Latvian Emigre Resident in Stockholm

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There is enclosed herewith a memorandum entitled "National Resistance and Purges in Soviet Latvia" in the German language, prepared by Mr. Bruno Kalnins, leader of the Latvian Socialist group in Sweden. Mr. Kalnins is a wellknown Social Democrat who has resided in Sweden since 1944, after having escaped from Latvia just prior to the re-entry of that country by the armed forces of the Soviet Union. He also serves as Stockholm correspondent for The New Leader, published in New York City. This memorandum was prepared at the request of an officer of this Embassy.

Although

The memorandum is taken up to a certain extent with irrelevant matters concerning Mr. Kalnins himself and the position of the Social Democrats, it is thought that some details contained therein may be new to the Department. Therefore it did not appear necessary to make a full translation. A summary of the pertinent facts are in effect as follows:

The Communist purge in Latvia started with diatribes against the leaders of non-Communist labor, particularly Social Democrats Bruno KALNINS and V. BASTJANIS in an article by the Soviet jurist O. KRINBERGS in Sina, the official organ of the Latvian Communist Party. The next step was a syndicated article in the same newspaper by A. PELSCHKE, the secretary of the Latvian Communist Party, entitled "Fight Against Bourgeois Nationalism - the Task of the Party". The article exposed what was called the "US-orientation of the Latvian nationalists", their "conspiratory activities" both abroad and at home, and the "acute danger menacing the Soviet regime in Latvia" from those quarters. It also referred to the national resistance movement in Latvia, which reportedly includes non-Socialists as well as Socialist Parties.

The memorandum further states that during the past two months this propaganda was followed by arrests of an unspecified, but rather large number of Latvian nationalists and non-Communist labor leaders. This included the discharge and/or punishment of Latvian Communists, Soviet functionaries and

DAFlinn/cgw

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and top-ranking civil servants. A number of these cases were published either in the press or over Radio Riga.

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SAKSS, the Minister of Agriculture was discharged. (Professors KIRCHENSTEINS, MADEKS and PEIVE, the leaders of the three Institutes of the Soviet-Latvian Academy of Sciences received a formal reprimand for their "irresponsible attitude and their neglect (of watchfulness)". A few weeks later four additional Ministers were reportedly discharged, namely, S. GULANISKI, the Vice Premier, P. VALESKALNS, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and K. STRAZDINS, Minister of Education. The foreign press and the Stockholm press also reported that Professor KIRCHENSTEINS had been discharged. However this report apparently originated from questionable Latvian sources in Stockholm and there is no foundation in fact for this rumor.

The discharged Ministers were reportedly replaced by the Soviet Citizen OSTROW as Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Soviet Citizen ARTELJEV as Minister of Forestry, and V. SAMSONS, a Latvian from Soviet Russia as Minister of Education. SAMSONS, during the last war served as a partisan leader. According to Kalnins, the new Ministers know little or nothing of Latvia and do not even speak the language. Their appointments apparently stemmed from a desire to strengthen the Russian element, which in Moscow's opinion has proved more reliable than Latvian Communists.

The purge and related actions started in a serious way in September, 1950 and seem to have continued to date. According to the memorandum, there is evidence to the effect that even now, five years after the Soviet occupation, a strong resistance both among the people in general and among labor exists.

Endorsed for the Ambassador:

Andreas G. Ronhovde
Andreas G. Ronhovde
First Secretary of Embassy

Dennis A. Flynn
Dennis A. Flynn
Second Secretary of Embassy

Enclosure No. 1. Reference Memorandum in original German

4/11/51